

All Churches Should Up CP Budget Support

By John Alexander
Stewardship Director

The Cooperative Program is not on trial. It has proven to be the most intelligent, economical, and thorough plan known for financing modern missions. It is flexible in nature. It is democratic in design.

It succeeds as a method of

All In One Program

By W. E. Grindstaff

In November, 1925, two old friends met at a state convention.

"Our Foreign Mission Board has disappointed ninety-five young mission volunteers this year," said James Love. "Their life plans are spoiled."

"Blame it on your huge debt," W. H. Baylor said. "More than a million dollars, isn't it?"

"It's more than \$1 million now and still growing," Love replied. "It's an embarrassing situation. No new appointments can be made."

"James, after eight years with the Home Board and eleven years leading the Foreign Board, you ought to have some answers. Why are we in this fix?"

Love leaned back in his chair and gazed at the ceiling for a long while. "Our Cooperative Program is not a magical plan. It will work for us in time, but we will have to develop it carefully. I believe that the present small income is the result of our failure to enlist the people properly in the 1925 Cooperative Program."

"What do you suggest?" "We need to call our people to pray for the Cooperative Program, and then give them a continuous stream of information about all the causes in it. They must see the whole thing as one program."

"What else?"

"Start no more institutions, enterprises, or campaigns, and call our people to tithe. That way we meet the present crisis and properly develop our Cooperative Program."

"Maryland will go with you on those suggestions, James. I've been their executive secretary thirteen years. Our state is anxious to see the Cooperative Program properly developed!"

At first the Cooperative Program idea met with loud objections from people who felt that it was a violation of their dearly bought freedom of choice. Like soldiers in battle, they were unwilling to yield gains purchased with blood. Fortunately, it was not long until most objections were silenced as men like Baylor and Love pointed out safeguards to their freedom of choice. Success of the plan as it developed won the confidence of others.

The plan that merged was for an individual to bring gifts to his church. The church would send a portion of total receipts to the state convention. The state convention in turn would send a part of its receipts to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for Convention-wide work.

Many people had a part in developing the co-operative idea into a workable program. It did not spring full grown from a few minds. Years of thought, prayer, and discussion took place before a plan emerged. Even then it was actively opposed by some and reluctantly accepted by others. It was almost overwhelmed at first by debt and depression.

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Cooperative Program Issue

support only as churches use it intelligently. All churches should increase their budget support of the Cooperative Program.

There are unmet spiritual and physical needs everywhere. These needs are seen at home in the state, across the nation, and in the rest of the world. One is so deeply impressed with this fact while attending a conference, convention, or assembly where different phases of the missions task are discussed.

Our nation is near the brink of chaos mainly because we have tried through tax sources to meet the physical needs of men without a corresponding effort on our part as Christians to meet man's spiritual needs. Our national leaders are saying to us, "We have failed. Bread alone is not enough! Man's spirit must be touched! We need your help."

Some of us have known this for a long time but we haven't done very much about it. Our response has averaged less than the price of a soft drink per day. Only by increased support through the Cooperative Program can these spiritual needs adequately be met. They are with us NOW and they won't go away! Time is running out when it will be possible to do very much about meeting these needs.

We need to increase our support because the Bible tells us to grow. One visible evidence of growth on the part of a church is a growing awareness of the Christian's role in financing the main task of the church—Missions! The church that does not increase its commitment to world missions and challenge its members to respond is failing to provide its members one vital avenue for growth.

All churches should increase their budget support of the Cooperative Program because what we are now doing is not enough. Some churches gauge their giving by what other churches give. Is this not like the lost man who says, "I am as good as some of your church members. Why do you talk to me?" We remind him that church members are not the ideal for measurement.

The love of Christ, his commands, and the measure of our concern should guide each church in what it gives. Our denomination simply cannot do what must be done on what it now receives from the churches.

All churches should make "some" increase in their budget each year to go

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All The World In Two Words

An Editorial

Many years ago a Southern Baptist teacher of missions wrote a book which he called "All the World in All the Word." In that book, the late Dr. W. O. Carver expounded the great truth that the Bible is a missionary book, with a missionary message for the whole world.

Southern Baptists always have believed the truth discussed by this beloved teacher, and in putting their beliefs into practice have developed a mission program which has included all of the world in two words. These words are "Cooperative Program" the designation which for the past 42 years has been given to the convention's world mission budget. Many believe that it is one of the most far-reaching and effective missionary programs in the world today.

Through the Cooperative Program every individual Baptist in every Southern Baptist church which supports the program, can participate in every phase of the world mission work the convention is doing today.

He can help support the more than 2,200 foreign missionaries now serving in more than 65 countries, under direction of the Foreign Mission Board.

He can work alongside the more than 2,500 home missionaries working under leadership of the Home Mission Board in needy areas all across America.

He can share in undergirding the many seminaries, colleges and other schools, provided by Southern Baptists and the cooperating state conventions, for the training of some of today's finest youth.

He can aid the Radio and Television Commission in sending the gospel message via the air waves to every corner of the globe.

He can help support homeless children in Baptist children's homes.

He can share in the ministry of healing in hospitals both in America and on foreign fields.

He can assist in printing Bibles and other Christian literature for use in pointing men to Christ.

He can help establish missions, organize churches, erect church buildings, and develop strong church programs all across America and in foreign lands.

Through the Cooperative Program all Baptists can do all of these things, and the many more which are included in the Southern Baptist mission program.

Truly it is a program which includes all the world in two words.

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The Baptist Record

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
IN DAY 1967
13105 1514 18900

Published Weekly Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1967

Volume LXXXVIII, Number 40

OCT 20 1967

All The CP Is World Missions

By Chester L. Quarles
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

Some people have trouble with the title of this article. It is difficult for them to see how certain items included in The Cooperative Program could be considered mission work. I do believe that all the items in the Cooperative Program have a definite part in missions.

Take, for instance, Christian Education. In Mississippi we have four Baptist colleges and a School of Nursing. These institutions produce workers in kingdom service, some actually to go as pastors, missionaries or to fill other places of Christian vocational service and others to aid and serve those who do go. Our colleges are producing fine laymen who take their places of leadership in church as well as community. They will undergird the world mission task and ministry with their lives and service.

In the Cooperative Program

in Mississippi we have an item called Ministerial Education. This is a fund that aids ministerial students to get through college. This is a real aid to our world mission program. We fail if we do not constantly fill the ranks of our preachers and missionaries.

The ministry of the Children's Village is missions. Part of our foreign mission money is spent taking care of homeless children. How could it be missions across the sea and not missions at home?

The world evangelization depends upon a strong base here at home. Therefore, that money spent in ministering to our churches, building strong Sunday Schools, Training Unions, Mission Societies and Brotherhoods is strengthening the total program. This is missions.

And so it goes. Each phase of our Cooperative Work is either "missions in the raw" or work, services and ministries that will make the whole missions thrust of more significance.

I believe in the Cooperative Program!

All Agencies Are In Cooperative Program

W. Douglas Hudgins
Chairman
Audit, Budget and
Allocations Committee

far, it has been able to make its own way.

The ordinary pastor or church member cannot participate in all these areas. But, whether it be in evangelism, pastoral and emergency support for churches, preaching to ethnic groups, aiding in the training of nurses, support of our Colleges and Seminaries, or undergirding our Mission Boards here and throughout the world, we can extend our witness through the lives of others. This year, give greater support to world missions through the Cooperative Program!

Nearly Owes Life To The CP

"I can almost say I owe my life to the Cooperative Program," said Missionary James D. Crane of Mexico.

"At the close of twenty years of missionary service in Mexico, I was stricken by a heart attack. The hospital to which I was taken is supported by the gifts of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. The Christian physician who attended me got his chance at an education in a student home which you made possible through the Cooperative Program.

"Off hand, I can name more than twenty pastors, Christian lawyers, teachers, doctors, nurses, and denominational workers across Mexico who were given an opportunity because you have student homes."

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Mississippi Baptists had a program similar to the Cooperative Program prior to 1925.

The Cooperative Program has been used successfully by Mississippi and Southern Baptists throughout the years. It has grown consistently.

The emphasis includes several articles by State and Southern Baptist leaders in addition to a series of testimonies by several state pastors.

The Cooperative Program is basic as it forms the backbone of the denomination's mission program.

The several special offerings authorized by the denomination are supplemental to the Cooperative Program and comprise about one-third of the total mission gifts.

All designated gifts go directly to the causes for which they are so marked.

October is designated as Cooperative Program Month on the calendar of the Southern Baptist Convention and this emphasis is being observed throughout the Convention as well as in Mississippi.

The new 1967 convention year begins Nov. 1 and the Convention Board has adopted a record \$3,800,000 Cooperative Program budget which will be submitted to the State Convention in November for final consideration.

The Cooperative Program is basic to the entire mission program of the denomination as it provides about two-thirds of the total mission contributions.

Cooperative Program gifts are divided proportionately among all causes supported by the Mississippi and Southern Baptist Convention.

Total mission contributions include Cooperative Program, special offerings and designated gifts.

The Cooperative Program was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as its principal channel of mission giving when it met in nearby Memphis in 1925.

Mississippi Has Part
Dr. R. B. Gunter, Mississippi
Baptists' executive secre-

Program. A church is limited in what can be done by one church, but, when we join with more than eighteen hundred churches in our state in a program that embraces so much, we ALL become a part of a great service, world wide, in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We look further and see our faithfulness as Mississippi Baptist United with thousands of Baptist churches in our great Southern Baptist Convention and we are amazed at what is accomplished for the Lord.

It has been my personal delight to see our local church grow in the spirit of missions

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and as this has happened, everything else has grown too.

The Cooperative Program has provided a way for us to bring our efforts, great and small, together so that locally and world wide, the cause of Christ is advanced to His glory.

There are many emphasis in our program of work for the Lord. Jesus Christ and His saving grace heads the list. Souls are lost everywhere in the world and ALL Baptists want to do something about it. I sincerely believe that the Cooperative Program offers this opportunity. Support the Cooperative Program as an individual and as a church.

Baptist Pastors Speak Out On Cooperative Program

One Thing We Must Not Fail To Do

By Bill Causey, Pastor, Parkway Church, Jackson

I have been present when some of my cherished friends dedicated their lives to mission service. Knowing their story, I have known that some were leaving aged parents; that some would never see their loved ones again; that some were leaving "success" and wealth; children were uprooted and transferred to strange environments; in short, that they were giving EVERYTHING they ARE and HAVE to the cause of Jesus around the world. I would not consider betraying these choice servants by not supplying them with needed support, equipment, and tools for the task. It is unthinkable that in a crisis hour like this that God's task force would not be supplied with what they need for the job.

Also, implied in our commitment to our Lord is dedication to trying to win the world for Him. It is above all else the ONE THING we must NOT fail to do. The cooperative effort of Southern Baptists is the best channel yet devised by which every sincere Christian can do his part.

It is not only desirable but URGENT that every Christian and every church continue and enlarge its participation as world powers make what will probably be FINAL choices between good and evil.

If we don't serve Christ, who will?

Supports Total Program

By Paul H. Leber

Pastor, East Moss Point Church, Moss Point
I believe in the World Mission through the Cooperative Program.

It has always been a challenge to me and I have sought to lead the churches to give through this plan. I believe it is a good plan because it touches every phase of world missions. There are some phases of World Mission not as thrilling as others and hence get less attention and gifts. Yet, the Cooperative Program supports the total program of our Lord and His command.

Too, think of the many areas that the Christian in the church can give to, through the Cooperative Program. We can have a share in all the need of the gospel. By giving through the Cooperative Program we help in all the work of the home base as well as foreign. We can therefore rightly obey the command of our Lord in Acts 1:8 when He says: "But ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and into the uttermost parts of the earth."

So often churches will think in terms of certain areas alone, as their own needs or own areas. They get interested in certain projects to the exclusion of the total program of our Lord. Yet, when we magnify the Cooperative Program we are stressing the need of the World Wide vision of Christian task. This is why I feel a need to continually stress giving to World Mission through the Cooperative Program.

I am reminded of a story told by a missionary who met a man in the Congo preaching from village to village. He was dragging 3 sad children with him. He had lost his wife in his pilgrimage. He stopped in each village and preached in English, then on to the next. He was asked what he was accomplishing. He said, "Well the Lord called me to preach the gospel. Whatever happens is His business!" His program was a hit or miss proposition, without any real thought or mission. He proclaimed but failed to communicate. I believe the Cooperative Program when supported helps us to preach the gospel effectively and to communicate well. It helps us to direct our aim. May His work be increased.

With The Sun Around The World

By Rowe C. Holcomb, Pastor, First Church, Hazlehurst

A travel brochure, with the above caption, captured my imagination. Pictures of various climes, races, and historical places became real to me through this new perspective.

Then, another brochure in the form of the COOPERATIVE DOLLAR, loomed before me. I came to a soul-stirring conclusion. I can orbit 52 times a year "With the SON around the world" through my Church Budget Envelope for my Church gives a percentage of undesignated dollars through the Cooperative Program. In addition to this, I can make the journey even more often through the channel of prayer—and, I MUST remember others are matching my dollars with their dedicated lives.

Think with me on this description of the Cooperative Program. It is rigid, yet flexible; liquid, yet solid; mechanical, yet spiritual; intricate, yet simple; well-rounded, yet pyramidal; southern, yet global; perennial, yet annual; mature, yet growing; liberal, yet orthodox; denominational, yet personal. It is calculated and appropriated, yet consists of Faith, Hope, and Love—and, the greatest of these is LOVE.

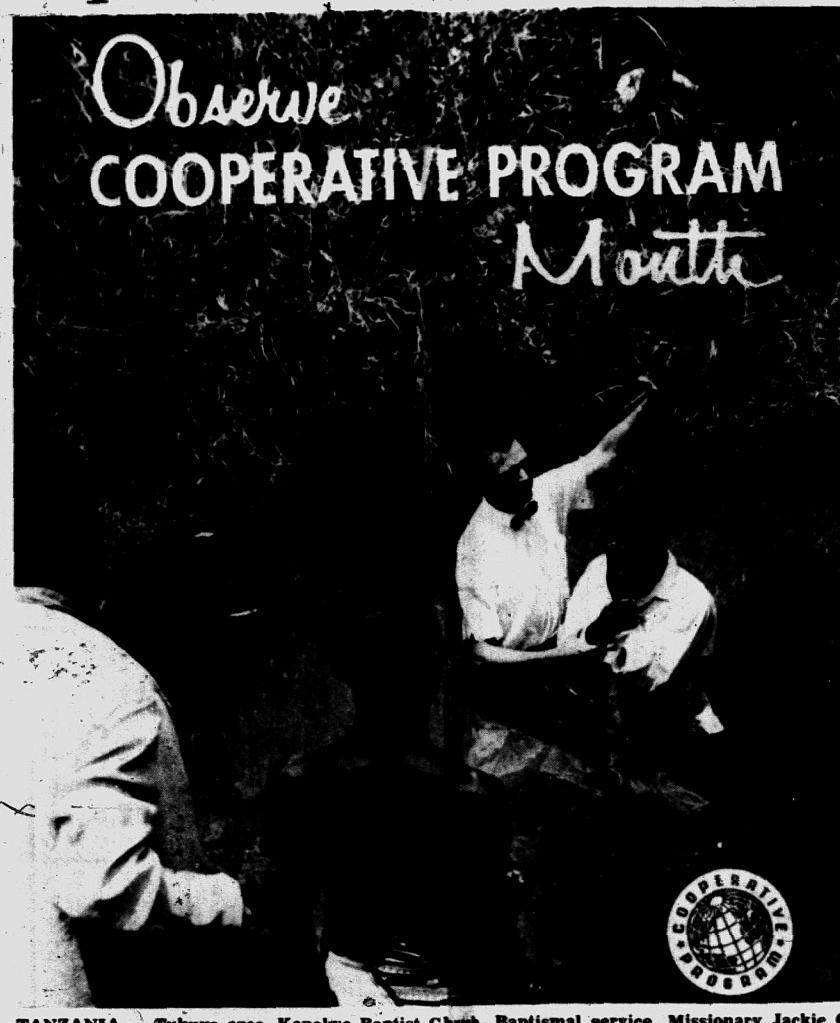
The Church Sharing

By Jimmy H. Hipp, Pastor, First Church, West Point

The church lives primarily to serve others. As the church accomplishes this task it seeks companions, and if it functions successfully in behalf of others it must be able to modify its individuality that it can fit in with a group of other churches without calling upon any individual church to make too great a sacrifice. Complete independence of sister churches, Christian Institutions and Missionary projects would seem to nullify the possibility of the give and take of life which is such an important Christian experience. We need each other as churches so that our mission projects can be very effective for our Lord.

The Cooperative Program provides a way for the Baptist churches in Mississippi to share in these various Christian activities in our state and throughout the world. In reality it is what we give in the Spirit of our Lord that will bring eternal and everlasting blessings. By the churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention uniting themselves in promoting the Cooperative Program the Kingdom of God can be advanced throughout the world in a broader sense. God isn't nearly as concerned over the amount given as He is the motive behind the giving. Every church would be blessed by placing in its budget a definite percentage for the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program enables people around the world to learn how to fruitfully live for Christ in such a way that the individual as well as others profit by the experience. The Cooperative Program allows freedom for Christian maturity and equips the individual to respect the rights of others, and express loyalty toward something outside himself. Personally I think God has given knowledge to Southern Baptists that the Cooperative Program is a blessing from God. May we share our monetary resources in supporting this Godly cause.



TANZANIA — Tukuya area. Kapowe Baptist Church, Baptismal service. Missionary Jackie G. Conley baptizing convert in an open stream.—Foreign Mission Board photo

Expression Of Christian Cooperation

By W. L. Day, Pastor, Fairview Church, Indianola

It is my earnest and prayerful desire that the wonderful church I am privileged to serve as pastor, will not only continue its support of world missions but enlarge the same, through the Cooperative Program.

The plan is intelligible and scriptural. By it everything Southern Baptists are doing to advance the Kingdom of Christ receives wise and equitable support.

The Cooperative Program is one of the highest expressions of Christian cooperation. It is Southern Baptists' way of saying to the world: "We are brethren and we work together." It therefore affords my church opportunity with other churches to witness to the unity and fellowship we have as Baptists. What a thrilling experience to be numbered among those Baptists who are walking together, working together under the Lordship of Christ.

The Cooperative Program is best for my church collectively, and for our members individually. It challenges my church to give increasing percentages of budget receipts to world mission support. Unquestionably, the more my church gives to world-wide causes, the more we prosper at home. It also challenges the individual to give to his church with increasing liberality, because in so doing he knows he is having a larger share in all that is being done for Christ and His cause by Southern Baptists around this world. This practice grows great Christian stewards. This is what God wants.

Obedience To Great Commission

By William A. Webb, Pastor, First Church, Macon

The Cooperative Program was in action before a good many of us were born, and we do not have the vantage point to observe the "before and after". From the sheer force of evidence, we have seen its workability and efficiency.

Through the Cooperative Program, individual Baptist churches have been able to be obedient to the Great Commission, even unto all the world. I am thankful for the Cooperative program for the channel it provides to bring to a needy world in a well diversified way, the resources of Christian people and churches.

We must be careful to remember that no system or people administering that system are perfect. We must be alert to the inherent weaknesses, and see to it they do not become prominent.

We must support, pray for, and even be willing to constructively criticize those who administer the program. Mississippi Baptists can confidently exercise their stewardship in world missions through the Cooperative Program.

—THIRTY

Every Church Member Can Have A Part

By Kenneth Roberts, Pastor, First Church, Carthage

Neither I, nor the church I pastor, am interested in planned contributions to the Cooperative Program just for the sake of being "Cooperative." But if any concerted and cooperative spiritual effort has proven to be effective, workable and unusually beneficial to millions of people around the globe, then we cannot help but feel that God has a part in such a program.

This continues to be the conviction of Baptists about the Cooperative program. Our age often prides itself on being impersonal, uninvolved and non-committed. But this must never become true of the Christian and the church for we must be involved with people if we are to imitate our Saviour. Jesus was never too busy to be interested in the physical and spiritual needs of the person or the crowd.

Through the Cooperative Program every church member can become "involved" with the needs of people throughout the world as he gives a part of himself with the giving of his money. Our church wants to continue to share in carrying out the Great Commission as we give a percentage of our budget through the Cooperative Program.

Lostness Of Men Stirs Us

By John H. Traylor, Jr., Pastor, Calvary Church, Tupelo

The lostness of men should stir us to greater support of world missions through the Cooperative Program. Lost souls die at the rate of 1,000,000 a week, 143,000 a day, 6,000 each hour, 100 each minute.

In a recent year, 41,000 were baptized by all Southern Baptist missionaries. This was the population increase during 3 hours and 16 minutes of that year. Southern Baptists had NO provision for those born during the remaining 364 days and 20 hours and 44 minutes.

The least we can do is heed Dr. Baker James Cauthen's plea to place 5,000 missionaries on the field as soon as possible. That will demand a Foreign Mission budget increase from 25 million dollars to 60 million dollars.

Accordingly, I shall do all in my power to encourage Calvary Church, Tupelo, to increase year by year our support of world missions through the Cooperative Program.

Most Effective Program

By John McCall, Pastor, First Church, Vicksburg

It is with pleasure that I welcome the opportunity to give my testimony as to the blessings and privilege of participating in the Cooperative Program.

My gratitude for this program is first of all personal, for I am a graduate of a Baptist college and a Southern Baptist Seminary, both of which are supported in part by cooperative program funds.

However, in a much larger sense, there are other reasons for my unqualified support of the Cooperative Program as pastor of a Baptist church.

In the first place, it is the most effective program yet devised for giving indispensable financial support to the mission program of Christ and our denomination at every level at home and "to the uttermost part of the earth." I believe that its devising was inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Further, I like the cooperative nature of the program. Every member who contributes to his church, however large or small the contribution, can gratefully say in truth, "I have a very real part in the work of missions in every area and in every place throughout the world."

So long as God and the people of First Baptist Church grant me the privilege of serving as pastor, I shall enthusiastically encourage, not only our participation, but an ever expanding part in supporting missions through this efficient program.

I am grateful that our church through these years of huge financial demands, especially a large building debt, has each year increased its mission giving.

Increase Seen For Coming Year

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr.

Pastor, First Church, Ellisville

The First Baptist Church of Ellisville gave 20% of all undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program during 1966-67. We are grateful for this, but this percentage will be increased in 1967-68. This is the second year of our five-year program. We are also grateful to see that our church should be giving 20% of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. I rejoice over such enthusiastic reaction to mission awareness.

As a pastor it is my desire that the church I serve not only continue strong support of world missions through the Cooperative Program, but increase that support. My reason for this desire is two-fold.

First, the Cooperative Program and our participation leads us to a REALIZATION of the needs of our world. It is easy to close one's eyes to needs, but when a worthy percentage of the income is channeled through the Cooperative Program, the realization of many needs is brought into focus. Second, the Cooperative Program and our participation enables us to discharge in part our RESPONSIBILITY in missions.

Our support of missions through the Cooperative Program does not discharge our full responsibility to Christ and a lost world, for we are to daily witness and proclaim wherever we are and wherever we go. However, we cannot go everywhere personally. The Cooperative Program gives us the means to fulfill responsibilities in many places, for through it we are there, preaching, teaching and ministering.

World Missions Symphony

By Bill R. Baker, Pastor, First Church, Calhoun City

The Cooperative Program enables a local Baptist church to meet in concert with thousands of other Baptist churches in presenting the "Symphony of World Missions." This recital is

URGENT—"Ye shall be witnesses..."

—UNIVERSAL—"Unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The success of the orchestra depends upon all musicians working together in a correlated effort. One musician never brings success. It takes all of them merging into a perfect whole.

There is a chair for every Baptist church in the ensemble. The score has been prepared—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The conductor is ready—"Lo, I am with you always."

The world is waiting for the concert.

Training Union LEADERSHIP CONVENTIONS

October 30 Leland, First
October 31 North Oxford
November 1 West Point, First
November 2 Temple, Hattiesburg
November 3 Ridgeland, Jackson

Training Union Improvement conferences for all age groups plus special conferences on vocational guidance and work with the mentally retarded.

Two of the many fine conference leaders are John B. Lane, Secretary, South Carolina Training Union Department, and Bill Latham, Director of Adult Work, Mississippi Training Union Department.



John B. Lane
Bill Latham

Taste comes as much from goodness of heart as from fitness of taste.